

# ACE NEWS

AMARILLO CITY EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



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## Upcoming Events:

**12/24 — Holiday  
Christmas Eve**

**12/25 — Holiday  
Christmas Day**

**01/21 — Martin Luther  
King Holiday**



The City Manager's  
Breakfast Club scheduled  
for  
December 26th will be  
cancelled.  
We will meet again starting  
in January 2013.

## With Gratitude End-of-Year Message Jarrett Atkinson, City Manager

2012 has been an eventful year for the City of Amarillo with a number of projects we have spearheaded or supported enjoying great success. Those successes would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of all City employees who labor in the elements without complaint.

I know many of you say "I'm just doing my job." Personally, I think your efforts on behalf of our City are tremendous and merit recognition. Here's a quick glance at just a few of the accomplishments under our belts this year:

- Every Drop Counts Water Conservation Campaign
- Implementation of the Storm Water Drainage Utility
- Regeneration 2012 at Thompson Park
- Opening of the Bill & Alice O'Brien Education Center at the Amarillo Zoo
- Update of Amarillo Parks and Recreation's Master Plan
- Launch of "Take Back the Wall" Graffiti Removal
- Addition of Amarillo City Transit Bus Routes
- Groundwork Underway for the Downtown Convention Hotel/Parking Garage
- Fireworks Display Returned to John Stiff Park
- Pedestrian-Activated Traffic Signal Installed on Coulter Street North of Amarillo Boulevard to Help the Medical Center
- Launch of "One Text or Call Could Wreck It All" Handheld Cell Phone Ban Education Campaign
- Amarillo Once Again Hosted the Capitol Christmas Tree
- Successful Participation, in fact the best ever, City United Way Campaign

... and that's just to name a few! There are many others, including the tremendous manner in which you conduct your routine business on behalf of Amarillo's residents. While 2012 has been a great year, it has not been without tragedy. The holidays are particularly difficult for those who have lost loved ones, so please keep them in your thoughts. Please know that your safety is of the utmost importance to us. Our Safety Program continues to grow and I want each of you to feel free to identify challenges and propose solutions at any time.

Finally, as we tackle the challenges awaiting us in 2013, remember to continue to take pride in your work. Amarillo is a great place to live and work because of you and your efforts. This city would not be as successful without you. Together, we will always seek more opportunities to continue making Amarillo the community we know and love. Thank you all for your service!

## Electric Light Parade

Center City of Amarillo welcomed Christmas with its 17<sup>th</sup> annual Electric Light Parade on Nov. 30. More than 60 entries filled downtown with their lights and sounds. About 15,000 people lined the streets for the parade. Several thousand were on hand as Mayor Paul Harpole and Commissioners Lilia Escajeda and Ellen Robertson Green counted down to light the city's Christmas tree. Center City wants to thank the Mayor and Commissioners as well as the city Parks and Recreation Department and Rod Tweet, the Civic Center and Sherman Bass and the Amarillo Police Dept. and Sgt. Davis for all their help for a wonderful Christmas parade.



A Nutcracker Theme



## Amarillo 101 Graduates Thank City Employees

Sonja Gross, Community Relations



Response to the City of Amarillo's first-ever Citizens Academy, Amarillo 101, has been tremendous. The program's success is a reflection of the hard work and dedication provided daily by employees like you! Surveys were sent to participants following each session, and here's just a sampling of the feedback provided:

*"Their (city employees) personal stories about how they served the city, the conditions in which they sometimes work, and the way in which some of them are treated in the performance of their duties by the general public was shocking and inspiring."*

*"I was pleased to learn a plethora of details about the various disciplines at the Service Center. Everyone I spoke to was well-informed*

*and seemed to genuinely appreciate speaking to me."*

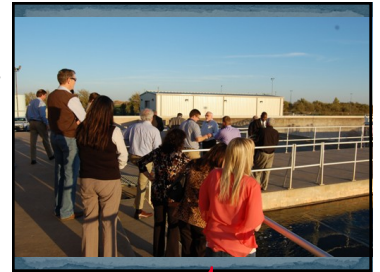
*"My appreciation and respect for our city employees grew 100 percent."*

*"It was a great experience to see how our city workers take such good care of the community as a whole. Everyone involved in the tour is very knowledgeable about their areas of responsibility."*

*"I enjoyed meeting some of the city's employees who were all very enthusiastic and seem to enjoy their work."*

City Manager Jarrett Atkinson noted that most of the comments were focused on how City employees are so professional and well-trained followed by how dedicated and excited they are about their jobs. The next most common comment was astonishment at how wide a

range of services are available, and especially those that never make the headlines. Even though your hard work may not make the headlines, it doesn't go unnoticed. For that, and for contributing to the success of Amarillo 101, **thank you!**



## Amarillo Goes Hands-Free January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sonja Gross, Community Relations

The City of Amarillo has joined the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's **"One Text or Call Could Wreck It All"** campaign and has pledged its support to help spread the message that distracted drivers are not only a danger to themselves, but everyone else on the road. The national distracted driving effort focuses on ways to change the behavior of drivers through legislation, enforcement, public awareness and education – the same activities that have curbed drunk driving and increased seat belt use.

The City Commission earlier this year felt so strongly about this, that an ordinance banning the use of a handheld cell phone while driving was adopted. This was a discussion that started in January and has included two public hearings before the Traffic Commission and two public hearings before the City Commission.

Since the ordinance was approved, there have been a few questions, particularly when it goes into effect. That was dependent on warning signs being installed throughout the City. That is complete and the ordinance will officially go into effect Jan. 3, 2013. At that time, enforcement will begin with a 30-day grace period. During that time, police will issue warnings – written or verbal, at the officer's discretion. Citations will be written starting Feb. 2.

A government employee, first responder, or volunteer may use a handheld cell phone while driving, but only while acting in official capacity with an immediate need to give or receive necessary official information. With that in mind, City Manager Jarrett Atkinson has made it very clear that this ordinance applies to all City employees. The best practice is to find a safe place to pull over to make or take a call or text or use a hands-free device.

**ONE TEXT OR CALL COULD  
WRECK  
IT ALL**

If you have any questions about this ordinance, visit the City's website at [www.amarillo.gov](http://www.amarillo.gov) and click on the **"One Text or Call Could Wreck It All"** banner to learn more.

## Love of the Game — Hank Liotart

Charlie Sanchez, Safety Manager

Do you know what sport is associated with the position of an attacking mid-fielder? If your answer is field hockey, baseball, or lacrosse, you aren't even close. You soccer aficionados knew it all along. It is not very often you get the opportunity to play on the same team with the world's greatest player in the game's history. Hank Liotart, Irrigation Tech at Comanche Trail Golf Course, did just that when he was named to an all star team composed of the game's greatest soccer players from the United States for the Bicentennial team. Hank Liotart was part of a team to play in a round robin tournament against teams from Italy, Brazil and England. On Hank's team was Pele the player who put soccer on the world map.



Hank was born in Holland took up soccer as a young boy and fell in love with the game. His family moved to the United States when Hank was 14 and settled in the Los Angeles, California area where soccer was not yet a sport other than in the playgrounds at school. After a year of amateur soccer, Hank went back to his native country at age 18 and began playing professionally.

Hank signed with Blauw-Wit Amsterdam and spent three seasons in the Netherlands before returning back to the U.S. When Hank arrived in the U.S., he signed with the Pittsburgh Phantoms of the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL). The Phantoms folded at the end of the season and the NPSL merged with the United Soccer Association to form the North American Soccer League (NASL). Hank played with several teams before moving back to the Netherlands to sign with PEC Zwolle in 1970. In 1972, Zwolle transferred Hank to N.E.C. Nijmegen, Holland. Hank returned to the U.S. in 1974.

Hank was recruited by an ex-teammate who was the coach to play with the Seattle Sounders of the NASL. While at Seattle, Hank was named a second team NASL All Star in 1974. After playing two seasons with Seattle, Hank was traded to the Portland Timbers. During his time in Portland, Hank was named to the all star team to play in the Bicentennial Cup where he played with Pele. Hank said because Pele is from Brazil, Pele refused to play against his own national team from Brazil.

While playing with the U.S. National Team Hank earned four caps. In August of 1975, Hank was on the team that was invited to play at the Mexico City Tournament. Hank said you had to be in tip-top shape due to the elevation of Mexico City which was something he had never experienced before.

After a few more stops with the San Diego Sockers and with the Memphis Americans, Hank decided to retire after the 1982 season. The salary structure is a lot different now than when Hank played. Then you were paid on performance and points scored. Unlike in today's game, everyone has a contract. Hank was paid well and taken care of; he played because of the love of the game. Hank said he misses the game today and at times wishes he could still get out there on the 120 meter by 70 meter soccer field and see if he could still free kick the ball with enough force to reach up to 100 mph.

## FROM THE PANTRY

MARGARET PAYTON, MBA, RD

### Twice-Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Chipotle

Hands-on time: 20 minutes  
Total time: 1 hour 45 minutes

6 medium sweet potatoes, unpeeled (about 3 1/2 pounds)  
1/4 cup butter, softened  
1 tablespoon finely chopped chipotle chilies, canned in adobo sauce  
1 teaspoon adobo sauce  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
3 green onions

1. Preheat to 400°F.
2. Pierce potatoes with a fork; place on baking sheet. Bake at 400°F. for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until done. Cool slightly. Cut each potato in half lengthwise; scoop out

pulp, leave 1/4-inch thick shell. Combine each potato pulp, butter, chilies, adobo sauce, and salt in food processor. Finely chop white bottom part of onions; add to pulp mixture. (Reserve green onion tops.) Pulse mixture 5 times to combine.

3. Arrange potato shells on baking sheet. Spoon mixture into shells. Bake at 400°F. for 10 minutes or until hot. Thinly slice green tops of onions, and sprinkle over potatoes.

**Yield:** 12 servings (serving size: 1 potato half)

### Nutritional information:

Calories 116; Fat 4.1g (sat 2.5g, mono 1.1g, poly 0.2 g); Protein 15g; Carb 18.8g; Fiber 2.8g; Chol 10mg; Iron 0.8mg; Sodium 253mg; Calc 32mg



# A Career Takes Flight

Pat Rhodes, Director of Aviation

After graduating Texas A&M University, I entered the U.S. Air Force in June 1969 and was assigned to pilot training at Reese AFB in Lubbock. Toward the end of the 53-week program, assignments were given to those of us who had survived. My assignment: to be a T-37 instructor pilot in the same program I had just completed.

About 30 days before graduation, the wing commander called a special meeting of the class. He put a list on the blackboard of various aircraft that would be available for graduating members to select as their next assignment. The guy that was ranked first in the class picked one. That aircraft was erased. The number two guy picked his and so on until everyone had their assignment.



As always, there are exceptions to processes. Eleven of us had previously been selected by the flight instructors to remain in the Air Training Command. We would fly either T-37s or T-38s. The "deal" was, if you picked a T-37, you would get sent to your choice of the 13 available locations for T-37 operations. The T-38 was the more prestigious aircraft, so pick that one and you went where the Air Force wanted to send you. Since I had gotten married a couple of weeks before this selection meeting, and given that my wife was a sophomore at Texas Tech, I chose a T-37 so I could stay in Lubbock with my wife. In a very short time, I learned that mission needs overrode "deals" as far as the Air Force was concerned. I was assigned to Webb AFB in Big Spring, rather than staying in Lubbock.

Turns out, the T-37 assignment in Big Spring was a good one. After 38 months there, I received orders to fly the McDonald-Douglas, F-4 Phantom. The T-37 was like driving a cheap used Chevy and the F-4 Phantom – the workhorse of tactical fighters during the Vietnam era – was like driving a brand new Corvette.

After F-4 training in Southern California, I was assigned to the F-4 at the Udorn Royal Thai Airbase in Udon, Thailand. Except for the fact that I spent months separated from my family, being in Thailand was a great experience. Once again, I learned that Air Force mission requirements overrode any "deals." Six of us were told if we stayed the full 12-month tour, we would get an assignment to fly the newest U.S. tactical fighter, the McDonald-Douglas F-15 Eagle. Using my previous comparison, the F-4 was the cheap used Chevy and the F-15 was a top of the line Maserati.

I left Thailand with orders in my hand to report to Langley AFB in Virginia to fly the F-15. While I was on leave, I received revised orders to cancel the F-15 assignment and report to Southern California as an F-4 instructor pilot. In the movies, air-to-air combat is dog-fighting. One of the basic maneuvers that all pilots had to learn was how to make a high speed head on pass at another aircraft. Consider this scenario: each aircraft is traveling in excess of 500 mph with an objective of passing closer than 1,500 feet of the other aircraft. My task was to keep telling the pilot in the front seat to "put your nose on him," which was a way to ensure minimum separation as the aircraft passed each other head-on. As a review, we have a closure rate of around 1,000 mph and I am yelling "put your nose on him." This is an appropriate time to tell you that I cannot see the other aircraft from the backseat. During my three year tour, I was never able to convince myself to not think about hitting the other aircraft, because I wouldn't ever know it happened.



## PAT RHODES, DIRECTOR OF AVIATION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

In early 1977, the Air Force Military Personnel Center called me with another “deal.” Yes, I played again. The “deal” was that I would be assigned to a Naval Aviation Squadron for two years. I accepted the assignment without knowing where I was going or what I was going to fly. I had visions of the South Pacific, maybe the Mediterranean. A couple of months later, I headed to Naval Air Station, Kingsville, Texas. I would be an instructor pilot in the TA-4J, a two-seat single engine jet.

Flying with the Navy was a special experience and the highlight of this tour was completing carrier landing qualification training aboard the USS Lexington. I'll do my best to describe this incredible experience.

After takeoff, I flew approximately 90 miles out into the Gulf of Mexico. I can't see land – just water and more water. I couldn't help but think what I was going to do if my one engine quits, but wasn't really worried about it. Finally, I see the wake of the carrier moving through the Gulf waters. In Navy lingo, the carrier is a boat, not a ship. The boat looked really big at the dock. Now it looks too small to put my jet on. The angle deck was 40 feet from the ramp (back edge of the ship) to the first wire (cable). There were three more wires 30 feet apart. The objective was to put the hook down and hit the deck in a position so that the hook would grab the third wire.

The speed at which you are moving across the water approaching the ship was typically around 120 mph. When you feel the aircraft hit the deck, you apply full power in case the hook skips or breaks a wire. If that happens, you are either going to fly again (full power) or go in the water (not a good option). When the hook catches, the aircraft will stop in about 30 feet. The event is violent and exhilarating! Before you can gather your thoughts, a tug has hooked up to your airplane and you are being towed to the catapult for a takeoff.

The takeoff is a magnificent journey. Once the deck is clear, the cat officer reaches down and touches the deck. At that point somebody pushes a button and you are off! The catapult was set to move the aircraft from zero to 160 mph in 2.2 seconds. I would submit to you that there is nothing comparable at Six Flags!

I consider myself blessed having had the opportunity to serve our great country; blessed with the opportunity to do the things that I did; and blessed with the ability to fly those magnificent machines.

Finally, when I was doing all these things, I seldom thought about the dangers involved. I know that I never really thought that my parents or my wife worried. I always assumed that I was bulletproof and never thought that they might think otherwise. Now, if I happen to see some of these activities on the History Channel, Discovery Channel or Military Channel, my breathing rate increases, my heart rate goes up and I get a little sweaty even from the comfort of my recliner. My wife of almost 43 years, Diane, finished her degree 13 years after we left Lubbock. She loves to remind me that I was never bulletproof – just thought I was.

## TIMEKEEPER USERS GROUP MEETING

Alesia Grist, Assistant Human Resources Director

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Timekeeper Users Group (TUG) meeting was held at Comanche Trail Golf Course on December 4, 2012. We had a great turnout. TUG is a great forum for Timekeepers and Department Heads to share information and learn about the best way to handle timekeeping, document processing, etc.



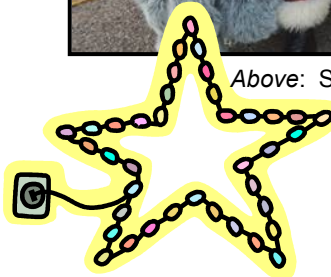
## Capitol Christmas Tree Visits Amarillo



Left: Parks and Recreation mascots greeted children as they arrived to view the Christmas tree and sign the giant Christmas card.



Above: Santa and Mrs. Claus



## SAFETY CORNER

CHARLIE SANCHEZ, SAFETY MANAGER



During the past year, we have published articles that were intended to bring you to a keener level of awareness of your safety not only at work but also at home. When "Take Safety Home" becomes a part of your everyday recognition and is practiced, it will be the beginning of our journey towards the cultural change known as Safety Behavior and Safety Culture. Statistics show that when a worker suffers an injury; it affects co-workers, employer, and family members. Reducing injuries will have a profound impact on your well-being and help maintain the quality of life you are accustomed to.

Let's review some of those articles from our past ACE Newsletters. In January, we looked at some of the environmental and workplace conditions that could lead to potential cold-induced illnesses and injuries. Using suitable footwear and recognizing symptoms of hypothermia were also discussed. We addressed that subject again last month with an article outlining ways to keep warm by dressing in layers. We defined frostbite, chilblains, and again discussed hypothermia and immersion hypothermia.

Our February issue discussed proper operation of a powered industrial truck, aka forklift. By following industry standards and the operator's

manual, we can demonstrate how to safely operate a powered industrial truck. Points of interest are: always wear the seatbelt that is equipped; never attempt to jump out if the powered industrial truck is tipping over; and be trained and stay trained. These are vital components of operating this equipment safely.

Moving into the Spring and warmer months, we discussed Fall Protection, Ladder Safety, Hearing Protection, and the versatile utility knife. Many worksites and even household injuries

have occurred by improperly using a utility knife. As with any tool, using the tool correctly and as intended are vital to protection against bodily injury. Using the correct ladder for the specific task and the different types of ladders were pointed out. The use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), Hearing Protection and Fall Protection were described in detail.

As we entered the dog days of August, we talked about CPR, working safely outdoors and sun safety. Staying hydrated and recognizing the symptoms of heat related illnesses could help a co-worker or family member avoid a life threatening condition.

As we close out our year and prepare for the New Year, let's look back at those Near Hits/Misses and our lessons learned. "Take Safety Home" and enjoy a very Joyous Holiday Season and have a very Prosperous, Safe and Happy New Year!

Left: Henry Baldivia, Mech. I, Duane Evenson, Mech. I, Michael Castleberry, Mech. II, and Chris Beard, Maint. Utility.



# WELCOME...

Name	Title	Department
Inda Crawford	Municipal Court Judge	Municipal Court
Han Hsu	Marketing Administrator	Civic Center
Daniel Ojeda	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Vincent Sperrazza	Building Attendant 1	Civic Center
Deborah Richardson	Administrative Assistant 1	AECC
Bryan Mech	Emergency Comms. Specialist	AECC
Donna Knight	Operations Manager	Municipal Court
Johnnie Miller	Utility Worker	Street
Timothy Bowles	Utility Worker	Street
David Alfred	Utility Worker	Street
Eric Dempsey	Residential Equipment Operator	Solid Waste Collection
Jerry Herring	School Crossing Guard	Traffic Administration
Craig Brown	Plans Examiner	Building Safety
Rocco Richardson	Plans Examiner	Building Safety
Johnny Scholl	Plumbing Inspector 1	Building Safety
Jonathan Beckham	Transportation Planning Trainee	Transit
Nicole Moore	Events Coordinator	Parks & Recreation
Jacob Jackson	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Joseph Williams	Park Technician 1	Park Maintenance
Dustin Dorman	Mechanic 1	Fire Civilian Personnel
Tonya Weedn	Administrative Assistant 1	Community Development
Christina Kongsy	WIC Technician	WIC Administration
Vicktoria Sandoval	WIC Technician	WIC Administration
Maureen Collier	Administrative Assistant 1	Utility Billing
Michael Miller	Utility Maintenance Mechanic	Water Production
Jose Becerra	Treatment Plant Operator 1	Surface Water Treatment
William Osborne	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Arturo Arcos	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Robert Gray	Utility Worker	Water Distribution
Edward Taylor	Utility Operator	Water Distribution
Jonathan Davis	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Gary D Cagle	Utility Worker	Wastewater Collection
Christopher Beard	Utility Worker	River Road WWT Plant
Danley West	Administrative Assistant II	Municipal Garage
Matthew Petty	IT Technician	IT

## Employee Milestones

CASTILLO MARIA	5	WIC ADMINISTRATION
FORBES BILLY	5	HOUSING ASSISTANCE
RUIZ MARCELO	5	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
CUNNINGHAM RICHARD	10	SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
DEANDA GEORGE	10	IT
DEVEREAUX BETTY ANN	10	CUSTODIAL SERVICES
JACKSON STEVE AARON	10	TRAFFIC FIELD OPERATIONS
MACLEOD SHELBY	10	CIVILIAN PERSONNEL
CAMPBELL CHRISTOPHER	15	FIRE OPERATIONS
DETTEEN STEPHEN A	15	FIRE OPERATIONS
FRANKE DAVID C	15	IT SYSTEMS
PERDUE WILLIAM J	15	FIRE OPERATIONS
SIMS LESLIE A	15	UTILITIES OFFICE
COGNASI PAMELA SUE	25	PARKS & RECREATION
WOOLAM DENNIS	25	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE



## Retirees

Virgil L Brown, Solid Waste – 14 Years  
 Dennis Gwyn, Fire Prevention – 17 years  
 Alan R. Teague, Fire Department — 25 years  
 Pam Mendez, Environmental Lab – 33 years

## Promotions/Transfers

OLD			NEW	
Name	Title	Department	Title	Department
Frances Hibbs	Assistant City Secretary	City Secretary	City Secretary	City Secretary
Maria Jimenez	Admin Assistant - hrly	Municipal Court	Admin Assistant II	Municipal Court
Manuel Hinojos	Park Technician I	Park Maintenance	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance
Randy McMinn	Utility Worker -hrly	Park Maintenance	Park Technician II	Park Maintenance
Aaron Quiroga	Utility Worker -hrly	Park Maintenance	Park Technician I	Park Maintenance
Brenton Clark	Fire Captain	Fire	District Chief	Fire
Eric Clark	Fire Fighter	Fire	Driver	Fire
Billy Greeson	Fire Lieutenant	Fire	Captain	Fire
Cody Snyder	Fire Driver	Fire	Lieutenant	Fire
Jeff Greenlee	District Chief	Fire	Fire Chief	Fire
John Woodward	Fire Investigator/Inspector I	Fire Prevention	Fire Investigator/Inspector II	Fire Prevention
Jacob Diaz	Fire Investigator/Inspector I	Fire Prevention	Fire Investigator/Inspector II	Fire Prevention
Vanessa Mireles	Admin Assistant I	Library	Admin Assistant I	Utility Billing
Jonathan Gresham	Civil Engineer III	Director of Utilities	Chief Water Utilities Engineer	Director of Utilities
James Rivers	Utility Worker	Water Distribution	Utility Operator	Water Distribution
Kizeria Tillman	Meter Service Representative	Water Distribution	Lift Station Maintenance Mechanic	Water Distribution
Michael Castleberry	Utility Maint Mechanic 1	River Road WW Treatment Plant	Utility Maintenance Mechanic II	River Road WWT Plant
Eric Reavis	IT Technician -hrly	IT	IT Analyst	IT

Send your comments,  
suggestions and ideas to:  
City Secretary's Office  
City Hall  
509 Southeast 7th Avenue,  
Room 303  
Phone:  
(806) 378-3014  
Fax:  
(806) 378-9394  
Email:  
frances.hibbs@amarillo.gov

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
www.amarillo.gov



Members of the Human Resource, Risk Management and Fire Administration departments helped stuff envelopes and wrap packages at the Eveline Rivers workshop on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The 90-minute commitment flew by in a flurry of paper and goodwill. The Eveline Rivers Christmas Project is to improve educational outcomes and supply basic childhood needs to economically disadvantaged children during the Christmas and winter season. For more information check out: [www.evelynriversproject.org](http://www.evelynriversproject.org). If you've never been involved with the project, it is an amazingly rewarding way to spend a little time and effort.



Above: Charlie Sanchez, Alesia Grist, Allison Jones, Ashley Orr, Viola Frausto, and Jim Smith

CITY OF AMARILLO  
P. O. Box 1971  
Amarillo, TX 79105-1971



## ACE ON THE SPOT- LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY CENTER

The Amarillo Public Library has a new service to help computer-shy library patrons learn to navigate the cyber-world.

Melody Boren, Technology Services Librarian, says the Library has offered free Computer Basics Classes since 2005. "In today's world, it's very difficult to get by if you don't have a few basic skills such as knowing how to conduct a web search or set up an email address," says Boren. "That's why we're always looking for ways to improve our computer education opportunities."

Boren's newest project is **Book-A-Librarian** she says Computer Basics classes are popular, but finding a time that works for multiple students can be a challenge. She also worries that some people might find the idea of a public class intimidating and that's why she's created this new service. "If patrons want to learn more about basic computer skills, they can contact the library and set up time for an individual lesson of 30 minutes to an hour."

Boren thinks offering more individual instruction will also allow her to give patrons the help they need most. "Some patrons are really starting at the beginning. They need to learn how to use a mouse. Others have got the basics down, but might need assistance with JobNow or some of the other resources available through the library website."

Some resources available through the Amarillo Public Library website include:

**Text-a-Librarian** – Reference assistance from anywhere

**Cypress Resume** – program to create professional resumes, cover letters and reference sheets

**Automotive Repair Reference Center** – recalls, service bulletins and repair info

**JobNow** – one-on-one assistance including resume polishing, interview prep and career assessments

**Library Elf** – email notices for approaching due dates, overdue items and requested materials

**Mango Languages** – more than 30 foreign language and 15 ESL courses in audio-based format

**Tumblebook Library** – online

story/audio books that introduce kids to reading in a dynamic format  
**Overdrive** – downloadable ebooks and audio books

**TexShare Databases** – online access to full-text articles and entire books

**Learning Express** – skills building and practice tests for scholastic and professional exams

**Global Road Warrior** – information on other countries and cultures

**World Book** – online encyclopedia in three levels, with additional databases and Spanish language

To schedule an individual computer lesson, contact Melody Boren at 378-3586.



Above: Melody Boren